

Luke 17 Pt 1 vv1-19

Context/Main Point

- **14-17** Jesus Teaching New Disciples/Rebuking Religious Leaders

I. Warning

1 Then [Jesus] said **to the disciples**, "It is impossible that no offenses should come but **woe to him** through whom they do come!

- **Offense:** gr. *skandalon*: Entice to sin. Persuade to act apart from God's will

E.g. It was God's will that Jesus go to the cross to pay for our sins. Peter trying to keep Jesus from the cross was an **offense** [*skandalon*] **to Him...Get behind Me Satan**

Warning to New Disciples/Religious Leaders re. Offenses...

- **New Disciples** People will draw you from simple relationship with Me
- **Religious Leaders** Don't be the ones who do it. Woe to you if you do!

People are going to take the bait...but woe to you if you offer the hook. People are going to trip up...but woe to you if you set the stumbling block in their way. [Guzik]

2 It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of **these little ones**.

- **Little Ones Context:** New Believers. Cause them to fall...

Better off to be fitted w/cement boots/Thrown into the sea
Rather than lead one of these beautiful new believers away from Me

IOWs Don't get in the way of what Jesus is doing in a person's life with regard to Salvation/Sanctification/Discipline. **It will not go well for you!**

2 Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the **simplicity that is in Christ**. 4 For if he who comes preaches **another Jesus** whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!

- **Offenses** Common to New Believers
 1. **Churches Complicate** Man-made Doctrines/Rules. Legalism/other isms
 2. **Cults/Religion Confuse** Use same words w/different meanings. Different Jesus

All seeking to lead new believers away from the simplicity of Christ

3 Take heed to yourselves.

Offenses will come. They will come from within/without

Romans 16:17 ...I urge you, brethren, **note those who cause divisions and offenses** [skandalon], contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and **avoid them**.

Acts 20:27 [To Ephesian Elders. I'm innocent...] For I have not shunned to declare to you the **whole counsel of God**. 28 Therefore **take heed to yourselves and to all the flock...**to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that **after my departure savage wolves will come in among you**, not sparing the flock. 30 Also **from among yourselves men will rise up**, speaking perverse things, to **draw away the disciples** after themselves. 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. 32 "So now, brethren, **I commend you to God** and to the **word of His grace, which is able to build you up** and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Offenses [Enticements to do/believe things not true] **will come**
You will recognize them if you know the Word of God

Paul knew there was trouble ahead for the [new] Ephesian Christians. Yet God and the word of His grace would see them through. Programs can't do it; the spirit of the age can't do it; slick marketing can't do it; entertainment can't do it; only God and the word of His grace can build you up and give you an inheritance in heaven. [Guzik]

- **Subject Change:** From those who entice us to sin to **those who sin against us**

3b... If your brother sins against you, rebuke him...

- **Brother Sins** Trespass. Miss the Mark of God's law to you
- **Rebuke Him** Straightly charge w/the seriousness of

Leviticus 19:17 You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely **rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him**.

Proverbs 17:10 **Rebuke** is more effective for a wise man Than a hundred blows on a fool.

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a **spirit of gentleness, considering yourself** lest you also be tempted.

James 5:19 Brethren, if anyone among you **wanders from the truth**, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will **save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins**.

- **Sinned against?** Rebuke in humility [IOWs You're a sinner too]

3c...and if he repents, forgive him.

- **Repents** **They** turn from sinning against you
- **Forgive** **You** leave it alone. Let go. Not discuss

4 And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, '**I repent, you shall forgive him.**'

In a sense, we cannot forgive them without doing violence to the whole idea of what forgiveness is all about. God does not forgive us apart from repentance; and when we are forgiven, all relationship is restored with Him...Even if you can't forgive someone because

they won't repent, you also cannot harbor the pain and bitterness of the offense in your heart. [Guzik]

Matthew 18:21 [Peter to Jesus] "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to **seventy times seven**."

- **For sure:** If someone asks forgiveness **we must forgive every time**

II. Faith and Duty

5 And the apostles said to the Lord, "**Increase our faith.**" 6 So the Lord said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

IOWs The deep roots of the Mulberry Tree are overcome by the little mustard bush even as the deep roots of unforgiveness are overcome by what we believe, i.e. our faith. [NJC]

Not the **Quantity** of faith but the **Quality** [*substance*] of our faith

Hebrews 11:1... faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

- **Faith** Rested Assurance. Based on the...
- **Substance** Which is Christ Who is our...
- **Hope** Expectation based on **God's Word**
- **Evidenced** By us as we act on His Word before **we see it come to pass**

IOWs Faith is believing what God says and acting on it

Quality of Faith is measured by the degree of confidence we choose to place in something
Biblical faith is not based on the trustworthiness of a tradition, religion, or institution

Faith is only as Reliable as the Object in which we put our Faith
The Object of our Faith is a Person. Jesus

- **Faith in a Who not a what...**

2 Timothy 1:12 ... I am not ashamed, for **I know whom** I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

John 6:67b... "Do you also want to go away?" 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, **to whom shall we go?** You have the words of eternal life."

- **True Faith is grounded in Jesus not Feeling, Church, Religion**

1. **Jesus said He is Lord** We will do what He says by faith/leave it w/Him
2. **Jesus said to forgive** We will forgive in faith and leave it with Him

BTW We are not to expect commendation for simply doing what is expected...

7 And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down to eat'?

8 But will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink'? 9 **Does he thank that servant** because he did the things that were commanded him? **I think not.**

- **Master:** Feed me first before you sit down and eat
- **Servant:** Where is my thank you? **I think not**

10 So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, '**We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.**'"

- **V10 Litmus Test:** Is Jesus Lord?

This world is the place of service; we are not to be expecting to have the festival here. The great supper comes at the end of the day. This is the time for us to serve, even as Jesus did when he was here; and we are to serve right on till the close of the day, even as Jesus did. [Spurgeon]

- **Selfless Serving** is not optional

Matthew 20:28.. the Son of Man **did not come to be served, but to serve,** and to give His life a ransom for many.

Luke 22:27 For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet **I am among you as the One who serves.**

John 13:14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, **have washed your feet,** you also ought to wash one another's feet.

John 15:11 [Pre-Cross] These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another **as I have loved you.**

- **Faith is based on a Person.** As we trust Him we will naturally serve Him

III. Taking the Long Way

11 Now it happened as He **went to Jerusalem** that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.

- **Face like flint:** Moving on to Jerusalem

**Knowing we were about to be nailed to a tree
What would we be thinking about?**

- **Passes through Samaria:** Takes the Long way

12 Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. 13 And they lifted up their voices and said, **"Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"**

- **Met by 10 Lepers:** Far away lifting up their voices

Not much of their voices were they likely to have, for the leprosy dries the throat and the voice is low and husky and **when lepers cry, "Unclean, unclean," it is an awfully sad sound** and very weak. **These ten lepers lifted up their poor voices.** [Spurgeon]

- **Jesus have Mercy:** gr. *e-le-e'-ō*

1. Not receiving judgment we deserve/Having Compassion/Pity on
2. Rt. Kindness to the miserable/afflicted w/desire to help

Note the language of the Holy Spirit: Ten **men** who were lepers
Ten Men created in the image of God...Loved by Jesus

- **Leprosy:** Picture of sin. Rotting/Contagious/Deadly

Leviticus 13:46 [OT Law of the Leper] He shall be unclean. All the days he has the sore he shall be unclean. He is unclean/he shall dwell alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp.

- **10 men** w/no human touch in **long time**

Jesus have Mercy on Us

14 So when [Jesus] saw them, He said to them, "**Go, show yourselves to the priests.**"

- **Go to priests? Not healed yet. Still Unclean**

14b...And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

A grand faith this! You are to come to Christ **before you feel any grace in you**; you are not to wait until you feel you are healed, and then come to him. **Come just as you are**, without any sense of grace, or any kind of feeling within you that is worth the having. Come just as you are. [Spurgeon]

They called Him Master/Acted on faith by doing what He said while still not healed

- Acted on **God's Word** then saw **God's work...**

15 And **one of them**, when he saw that he was healed, **returned**, and with a loud voice glorified God, 16 and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks.

- **10 Cleansed.** One man returns for complete healing

1. Runs back to Jesus
2. Roars back in Praise
3. Face to Feet in Thanksgiving...

16b...And he was a Samaritan.

- **Universal offer of Salvation...**

John 1:12 ...as many as received Him...He gave the **right to become children of God**

- And he **was** a drug addict. She **was** an adulterer. He **was** a porn addict. She was...?

One of those off-casts and out-casts that the Jews would not own...one of the men that they said were of a mongrel breed...only half Israelite/half idolater. **"O grace, it is thy want, Into unlikeliest hearts to come!"** [Spurgeon]

17 So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? 18 Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God **except this foreigner?**" 19 And [Jesus] said to him, **"Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."**

- **Revealed:** Other 9 Jews!
- **Q.** Why did Jesus take the long way. **A.** A sheep was lost in Samaria

He was a man. He was a Samaritan. He was a leper
Now a Brand-New Child of God by Faith in Jesus

2 Corinthians 5:17 [Read] **...If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.**